

SSO GLOSSARY OF TERMS

[Collection System](#)

[Enrollee](#)

[Event ID](#)

[Lateral](#)

[Lower Lateral](#)

[Miles of Gravity Sewer](#)

[Miles of Laterals](#)

[Miles of Pressure Sewer](#)

[Miles of Private Laterals](#)

[Percent Reached Surface Water](#)

[Percent Recovered](#)

[Private Lateral](#)

[Private Lateral Sewage Discharge \(PLSD\)](#)

[Sanitary Sewer Overflow \(SSO\)](#)

[Sanitary Sewer System](#)

[Spill](#)

[SSO Category 1](#)

[SSO Category 2](#)

[SSO Database](#)

[Total # of PLSDs per 100 miles of Sewer](#)

[Total # of SSOs per 100 miles of Sewer](#)

[Total Volume of PLSDs Reached Surface Water per 100 miles of Sewer](#)

[Total Volume of SSOs Reached Surface Water per 100 miles of Sewer](#)

[Total Volume Reached Surface Water](#)

[Total Volume Recovered](#)

[Upper Lateral](#)

[WDID](#)

Collection System – Generic term for any system of pipes or sewer lines used to convey wastewater to a treatment facility. [Select another Glossary Term.](#)

Enrollee – A public entity that owns or operates a sanitary sewer system and has submitted a complete and approved application for coverage under Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Sanitary Sewer Systems (WQO No. 2006-0003-DWQ). [Select another Glossary Term.](#)

Event ID – A unique identifier assigned by the SSO database to each reported SSO or private lateral sewage discharge. [Select another Glossary Term.](#)

Lateral – Segment of pipe which connects a home or building to a sewer main, which is usually located beneath a street or easement. The responsibility for maintaining a lateral can be solely that of the sewerage agency or private property owner; or it can be shared between the two parties. Local communities dictate lateral responsibility and the basis for a shared arrangement, if it applies. [Select another Glossary Term.](#)

Lower Lateral – Portion of a lateral (usually from the property line to the sewer main) that the sewerage agency is responsible for maintaining. This term only applies if overall lateral maintenance responsibility is shared with the private property owner. [Select another Glossary Term.](#)

Miles of Gravity Sewer – Amount of gravity sewer lines/pipes in an Enrollee's sanitary sewer system, expressed in miles. [Select another Glossary Term.](#)

Miles of Laterals – Amount of laterals in an Enrollee's sanitary sewer system, which the Enrollee is responsible for maintaining, expressed in miles. [Select another Glossary Term.](#)

Miles of Pressure Sewer – Amount of pressurized sewer lines/pipes in an Enrollee's sanitary sewer system, expressed in miles. [Select another Glossary Term.](#)

Miles of Private Laterals – Amount of private laterals tributary to an Enrollee's sanitary sewer system, which private property owners are responsible for maintaining, expressed in miles. [Select another Glossary Term.](#)

Percent Reached Surface Water – Volume of sewage discharged from a sanitary sewer system or private lateral or collection system that reached surface water divided by the total volume of sewage discharged. [Select another Glossary Term.](#)

Percent Recovered – Volume of sewage discharged that was captured and returned to the sanitary sewer system or private lateral or collection system divided by the total volume of sewage discharged. [Select another Glossary Term.](#)

Private Lateral – Privately owned lateral. [Select another Glossary Term.](#)

Private Lateral Sewage Discharge (PLSD) – Sewage discharges that are caused by blockages or other problems within privately owned laterals or collection systems which are tributary to the reporting Enrollee's sanitary sewer system. Reports of these events are submitted by Enrollees on a voluntary basis but are not their responsibility. This type of sewage discharge is the responsibility of the private lateral or collection system owner. [Select another Glossary Term.](#)

Sanitary Sewer Overflow (SSO) – Any overflow, spill, release, discharge or diversion of untreated or partially treated wastewater from a sanitary sewer system. SSOs include:

- (i) Overflows or releases of untreated or partially treated wastewater that reach waters of the United States;
- (ii) Overflows or releases of untreated or partially treated wastewater that do not reach waters of the United States; and
- (iii) Wastewater backups into buildings and on private property that are caused by blockages or flow conditions within the publicly owned portion of a sanitary sewer system.

[Select another Glossary Term.](#)

Sanitary Sewer System – Any system of pipes, pump stations, sewer lines, or other conveyances, upstream of a wastewater treatment plant headworks and which is comprised of more than one mile of pipes and sewer lines, used to collect and convey wastewater to a publicly owned treatment facility. [Select another Glossary Term.](#)

Spill – Generic term referring to any sewage discharge (i.e., SSO or private lateral sewage discharge) resulting from a failure in a sanitary sewer system or privately owned lateral or collection system. [Select another Glossary Term.](#)

SSO Category 1 – All discharges of sewage resulting from a failure in an Enrollee's sanitary sewer system that:

- A. Equal or exceed 1000 gallons, or
- B. Result in a discharge to a drainage channel and/or surface water;
or
- C. Discharge to a storm drainpipe that was not fully captured and returned to the sanitary sewer system.

[Select another Glossary Term.](#)

SSO Category 2 – All discharges of sewage resulting from a failure in an Enrollee's sanitary sewer system not meeting the definition of [Category 1](#). [Select another Glossary Term.](#)

SSO Database – Online reporting system developed, hosted, and maintained by the State Water Resources Control Board for compliance with the Monitoring and

Reporting Program contained in Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Sanitary Sewer Systems (WQO No. 2006-0003-DWQ).

[Select another Glossary Term.](#)

Total # of PLSDs per 100 miles of Sewer – Broad metric used to compare the relative performance of privately owned laterals tributary to an Enrollee's sanitary sewer system. This metric expresses the number of Private Lateral Sewage Discharges, for which the reporting Enrollee is not responsible, for every 100 miles of privately owned laterals tributary to an Enrollee's sanitary sewer system. Due to the large variation in community specific characteristics, this metric should only be viewed as a rough comparison of the operation and maintenance performance for privately owned laterals. The metric is calculated as described below:

$$\text{Total \# of PLSDs per 100 miles of Sewer} = \frac{\text{Total \# of PLSDs (100)}}{\text{Miles of Private Laterals}}$$

[Select another Glossary Term.](#)

Total # of SSOs per 100 miles of Sewer – Broad metric used to compare the relative performance of Enrollees and their sanitary sewer systems. This metric expresses the number of SSOs, for which the reporting Enrollee is responsible, for every 100 miles of pipe or sewer lines in an Enrollee's sanitary sewer system. Due to the large variation in facility specific characteristics, this metric should only be viewed as a rough comparison of the operation and maintenance performance of Enrollees and their sanitary sewer systems. The metric is calculated as described below:

$$\text{Total \# of SSOs per 100 miles of Sewer} = \frac{\text{Total \# of SSOs (100)}}{\text{Miles of Pressure Sewer} + \text{Miles of Gravity Sewer} + \text{Miles of Laterals}}$$

[Select another Glossary Term.](#)

Total Volume of PLSDs Reached Surface Water per 100 miles of Sewer – Broad metric used to compare the relative performance of privately owned laterals tributary to an Enrollee's sanitary sewer system. This metric expresses the volume of Private Lateral Sewage Discharges, for which the reporting Enrollee is not responsible, that reached surface water for every 100 miles of privately owned laterals tributary to an Enrollee's sanitary sewer system. Because sewage discharges that reach surface water pose a greater threat to public health and the environment, this metric reflects some accounting of the threat posed by PLSDs. Due to the large variation in community specific characteristics, this metric should only be viewed as a rough comparison of the operation and maintenance performance for privately owned laterals. The metric is calculated as described below:

$$\text{Total Volume of PLSDs Reached Surface Water per 100 miles of Sewer} = \frac{\text{Total Volume of PLSDs Reached Surface Water (100)}}{\text{Miles of Private Laterals}}$$

[Select another Glossary Term.](#)

Total Volume of SSOs Reached Surface Water per 100 miles of Sewer – Broad metric used to compare the relative performance of Enrollees and their sanitary sewer systems. This metric expresses the volume of SSOs, for which the reporting Enrollee is responsible, that reached surface water for every 100 miles of pipe or sewer lines in an Enrollee's sanitary sewer system. Because sewage discharges that reach surface water pose a greater threat to public health and the environment, this metric reflects some accounting of the threat posed by SSOs. Due to the large variation in facility specific characteristics, this metric should only be viewed as a rough comparison of the operation and maintenance performance of Enrollees and their sanitary sewer systems. The metric is calculated as described below:

$$\frac{\text{Total Volume of SSOs Reached Surface Water per 100 miles of Sewer}}{\text{Miles of Pressure Sewer} + \text{Miles of Gravity Sewer} + \text{Miles of Laterals}} = \frac{\text{Total Volume of SSOs Reached Surface Water (100)}}{\text{Miles of Pressure Sewer} + \text{Miles of Gravity Sewer} + \text{Miles of Laterals}}$$

[Select another Glossary Term.](#)

Total Volume Reached Surface Water – Amount of sewage discharged from a sanitary sewer system or private lateral or collection system that reaches a surface water. [Select another Glossary Term.](#)

Total Volume Recovered – Amount of sewage discharged that was captured and returned to the sanitary sewer system or private lateral or collection system. [Select another Glossary Term.](#)

Upper Lateral – Portion of a lateral (usually from the building foundation to the property line) that the private property owner is responsible for maintaining. This term only applies if overall lateral maintenance responsibility is shared with the sewerage agency. [Select another Glossary Term.](#)

WDID – Waste Discharge Identification number which is a unique identifier assigned by the State Water Board to each Enrollee for regulatory record and data management purposes. [Select another Glossary Term.](#)